

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were originally filed with the application. Claim 26 has been amended herein. Claims 1-25 and 27-30 remain in the application unchanged.

I. Response to Restriction Requirement

In the restriction requirement, the Examiner identifies the groups listed below and requires that applicant elect one of the groups to be examined in the present application.

Group I: Claims 1-24

Group II: Claims 25 and 27-30

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.143, applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-24, with traverse. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the restriction requirement for the following reasons. Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner's restriction requirement is improper because the Examiner has not shown that a serious burden would be required to examine all of the claims. MPEP 803 sets forth the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Thus, for a restriction requirement to be proper, the Examiner must satisfy the following two criteria:

1. the existence of independent or distinct inventions; and

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2. that the search and examination of the entire application cannot be made without serious burden.

The Examiner has not shown that the second requirement has been met.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn.

II. Amendment to Claim 26

In paragraph 5 of the restriction requirement, the Examiner correctly points out that claim 26 erroneously indicates that base claim 25 is directed to a carton blank rather than to a method. In response, applicant has amended claim 26 herein to correct this typographical error.

Respectfully submitted,
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By

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